

Memorandum on human rights violations in East Timor

The East Timorese people have been denied the right to self-determination. Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo, the Apostolic Administration of Dili, said in a letter to the UN Secretary-General on 6 February 1989, "*The people of Timor must be allowed to express their views on their future through a plebiscite. Hitherto the people have not been consulted.*" This is the central cause for the cycle of opposition, repression and human rights violations.

No political opposition is allowed. Hence, anything critical of Indonesian rule is illegal and deemed to be subversive. People are liable to be suspected of being in contact with the armed resistance or of opposing Indonesian rule. At all times, atrocities occur; people are intimidated, arrested and detained, tortured, beaten up or summarily executed. But at certain times the cycle of opposition, repression and abuse is particularly acute. This has been the case since the second half of 1988.

Basic rights

Freedom of association and assembly: All Timorese political parties are banned. No meetings or gatherings may take place without a permit and no-one may publicly support or campaign for East Timor's right to self-determination. When general elections are held, only Indonesian parties may take part. Although voting is not compulsory by law, there is intense pressure on everyone to vote or else be accused of supporting the armed resistance. People must adhere to one of the four officially-recognised religions, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism; all other religions, including animism, are prohibited. Atheism is forbidden.

Freedom of movement: Hundreds of thousands of people were uprooted from their homes in the late 1970s and forcibly relocated in settlement camps under Indonesian control; they have not been permitted to return to their native villages. Army regulations prevent inhabitants from travelling more than one or two kilometres beyond the resettlement perimeter; this obstructs food production and the gathering of food, firewood or other essentials.

The following abuses have recently been reported:

On 1 February 1988 three people from Fatulia resettlement, west of Venilale, were forced by hunger to go in search of leaves and tubers, beyond the 1 km boundary. In Tubo-Me, 2 kms west of Venilale, a patrol from Battalion 713 opened fire on them. Dego Modo, 31, was gravely wounded; the two others fled. Dego Modo was kicked under interrogation and stabbed to death. The others, Raul, 27, and Jose Pereira, 32, were later captured in their village, beaten and tied up and later taken under arrest to Baucau.

On 5 May 1988, four persons from Fatulia broke the same rule. At Uiae, 5 kms west of Venilale, a Battalion 713 patrol opened fire on them. Ernesto, 25, was fatally wounded while Marciano, 26, was badly wounded and later taken to hospital in Baucau. It is not known whether he is still alive. The two others Chico Belo, 30, and Ricardo, 32, were captured, beaten up and taken into custody in Baucau. They were interrogated by *nanggala* (para-commando intelligence troops), tortured with electric shocks and cigarette burns and plunged in a tank of cold water. In November 1988, they were still in custody

at Baucau Kodim (Military District Command).

[Source: Fretilin report, 15 November 1988, handwritten and signed by David Aleixo, Commander of the 2nd Unit]

Summary executions and maltreatment

* On 31 October 1988, troops of Battalion 726 in Dilor-Lacluta killed Carlos Mendes da Silva, 22 years, and Luis da Cruz, 20 years. Both had 18 gunshot wounds. They were killed in the presence of 15 people whose names are known to Bishop Belo. Troops of the same battalion also beat up the following people from Ahio village, Dilor: Araujo Fernandes, Agostinho Lo'o, Francisco Parada Martins, Luis Ximenes, Loi'Ouela (his head was split open), Alarico Martins and Moises Ximenes. Other killings by the military took place in Ossu (4 persons), Lacluta (5 persons), Viqueque (2 persons), Gariwai-Baucau (2 persons), and Luro (1 person).

[Source: Letter from Bishop Ximenes Belo of Dili to the Pro Nuncio in Jakarta, 16 February 1989].

* Domingos, 28, Anselmo, 30, and Duarte, 32, from Uai-Te village, were arrested on 14 November 1988, suspected of having contact with the armed resistance. They were maltreated by two police officers, Silvestre and Chico, acting on the orders of the army officers. In Venilale, they were tied up like horses with bits in their mouths and tortured until their bodies were swollen all over. On 20 November they were released, there being no evidence against them. Six other cases in the Venilale sub-district were also reported.

[Source: Fretilin report on human rights, 30 November 1988, signed by Camilo Roma Torres].

Waves of arrest in late 1988

* In July 1988, hundreds of school-children demonstrated outside the Governor's Office in Dili to protest against discrimination in school enrolment. For the first time in 1988, children wishing to enrol in lower and upper secondary schools were required to take a test even though they had passed with satisfactory grades from primary or lower secondary school. An estimated 3,000 Timorese children failed the tests whilst most Indonesian children passed.

According to several eye-witness accounts, when police dogs were used to disperse the children, they responded by throwing stones. They only dispersed after the Governor came out. Later that day some children were arrested, then released. Some days later, dozens were arrested and held at the Dili *kodim* (military command) for several weeks.

* In late October 1988, the army began hunting down people who had a cross tattooed on their left hand. Most were arrested in and around Viqueque, Baucau and other areas where armed resistance is strong. Estimates of the number arrested vary between three and five thousand. The detainees were alleged to be members of a Catholic sect, or were suspected of setting up a clandestine party and/or plotting to assassinate President Suharto who visited East Timor on 1 November. Most detainees were badly treated; they were whipped with leather belts and given electric shocks. The vast majority of detainees were released after short periods of detention, confirming that no evidence of a plot was discovered.

In a letter to the Pro Nuncio in Jakarta on 16 February 1989, Bishop Belo gave the names, occupation and place of residence of 36 people detained in this wave of arrests. The treatment of these detainees prompted Bishop Belo to condemn the authorities for their treatment of detainees in his Pastoral Letter of 5 December: "*Following interrogation, some were placed under arrest and others, as well as being detained were slapped, beaten and tortured.... We oppose this barbaric system and condemn the lying propaganda according to which human rights violations do not occur in East Timor.*"

Detentions and summary executions since April 1989

Since April this year, many people have been arrested in Dili, Baucau and other places; there have also been reports of dozens of people being summarily executed in Baucau and elsewhere. The arrests in Baucau reportedly commenced on 5 May. Within a month forty persons had been detained and were being held at a new detention centre at Baucau airport. Those arrested were reportedly suspected of supporting Bishop Belo's plebiscite letter to the UN and/or of engaging in clandestine activities in support of the resistance. No names of detainees in Baucau are yet available.

Some details have been received about people arrested in Dili since 5 May. [For a list of detainees whose names were known up to the end of June, see page 4.] In addition, it has been reported that one hundred students were arrested in Dili on 13 and 14 May. On 29 May, students at the University of East Timor (Untim) wrote a letter protesting against the Dili arrests, following which seven more students, whose names and whereabouts are not available, were arrested. All these detainees are believed to be being held at army detention and interrogation centres to which the International Red Cross has no access.

On 14 June, Elias Pereira Moniz, a Timorese student at Udayana University, Bali was arrested, following the interrogation of people arrested in Baucau and Dili. This arrest prompted eight Timorese, most of them still studying at Udayana University, to flee from Bali to Jakarta to escape arrest. In Jakarta, one of the students, Miguel Amaral Guterres, disappeared. Another, Lucas da Costa, a former Udayana student who was twice arrested during the October-November 1988 arrests, was arrested in Jakarta on 16 June. His arrest prompted the other six from Bali to seek refuge, first at the Swedish embassy on 16 June, then at the Japanese and Vatican embassies on 19 June. None of these embassies was willing to give them refuge. At the time this report was written, they were all understood to be at the homes of East Timorese families in Jakarta, their status and future uncertain. Lucas da Costa is still under detention at an unknown location, while Miguel Guterres is still unaccounted for.

The only arrest reported in the Indonesian press was that of Lucas da Costa (*Jakarta Post*, 22 June). The paper also reported that the students who sought refuge at the Jakarta embassies were suspected of 'subversion'. Two days later, the Armed Forces spokesman, Brigadier-General Nurhadi, strongly denied the *Jakarta Post* report. The previous day, all editors in Jakarta had been summoned and warned by the authorities not to repeat the *Jakarta Post's* account of the events leading to the six students seeking refuge.

Although the authorities are concealing the truth about abuses in East Timor, information is now coming out through a variety of channels, enabling the UN Sub-Commission, at its 41st Session in August, to make a proper assessment of the human rights situation there.

List of recent arrests in East Timor

Name	Details	Date and place of arrest	
Nuno Correlo de Andrade	aged 28, EsJ teacher,	30/05/89	
Herminio da Costa Alves	On staff of ET governor, ex-Apodeti.	18/05/89	
Abel de Araujo	student, whereabouts unknown	05/89	
Francisco Bobonaro	aged 30	20/05/89	Dili
Mario Caeiro	aged 45	20/05/89	Dili
Ilias da Costa	student	1-10/06/89	Den Pasar
Lucas da Costa	arrested after fleeing from Bali	15/06/89	Jakarta
Victor da Costa	EsJ history teacher,	12/05/89	Dili
Jose Evaristo	EsJ student, tortured	31/05/89	Dili
Macario Faria	health worker	05/89	
Jose Tot Gutteres	bus-driver, feared killed	05/89	on Baucau-Vemassee road
Manuel Fatima Gutteres	shop-keeper, whereabouts unknown	24/05/89	Dili
Marcelino Gutteres	student until 1988	05/05/89	Dili
Miguel Amaral Guterres	disappeared after fleeing to Jakarta from Bali	16/06/89	
Francisco Lela	EsJ student, tortured	30/05/89	Dili
Mario Macario	aged 39	05/89	
Jose Manuel	EsJ student	13-14/05/89	Dili
Elias Pereira Moniz	student: his arrest prompted 8 to flee to Jakarta	14/06/89	Bali
Francisco Rego de Oliveira	aged 35	27/05/89	
Zito Pereira	aged 28, taxi-driver.	28/05/89	
Sandival	chauffeur, tortured released 30/05	25/05/89	
Antonio da Silva	aged 21, student, house destroyed.	29/05/89	

Note: EsJ = Externato San Jose, the only Portuguese language school left in East Timor. Suspected of fostering anti-Indonesian sentiment.

[This list is compiled from information coming from a variety of sources.]

Recent Killings in East Timor

Alexio Ximenes	aged 30, father of two, killed 23/03/89 by Sergeant Mardi of Battalion 328 in Venilale.
Joaquim Ximenes	38, father of one, killed early April by troops of the Satgas (Special Tasks Unit) of Battalion 328.
Juliao Freitas	54, killed 14/05/89 in Wailale by troops of Battalion 315.
Felix Ximenes	55, killed 11/06/89 in Venilale by troops of Battalion 315.
Gaspar de Sousa	50, killed 11/06/89 in Vimalale by troops of Battalion 315.
A man and a woman (names not yet available)	killed 15-20/06/89 in Colegio-Futumata Fostiko by troops of Battalion 328.

[Source: Jakarta-based Indonesian Institute for the Defence of Human Rights in Jakarta.]